



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
AND THE TOWN COUNCIL  
May 10, 2010**

**Call to Order – Roll Call:**

A public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Town Council was convened and called to order by Mayor Schlum at 5:32 PM, Monday, May 10, 2010 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Present at roll call were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Commission: Chair Sharon Dennis, Vice-Chair Fred Bedell, Commissioners Don Doty, Paul Kolwaite, Amy Sanders, and Richard Taylor. Commissioner Natalie Varela was absent. Present from Town Council were Mayor Jay T. Schlum, Vice-Mayor Cassie Hansen, and Councilmembers Mike Archambault, Dennis Brown, Dennis Contino, Ginny Dickey, and Henry Leger. Staff members present were Director Mark Mayer, Recreation Supervisor, Bryan Hughes, Parks Supervisor, Don Clark, Executive Assistant, Nancy Walter, Town Manager Rick Davis, Deputy Town Manager, Julie Ghetti, Recreation Coordinators, Anjelica Giardino and Kathy Worrell. Assistant Town Attorney Chris Schmaltz attended via phone.

**ITEM #1-CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

No one from the public answered the call.

**ITEM #2-CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 8, 2010 REGULAR MEETING AND THE APRIL 19, 2010 SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

Mr. Bedell made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2010 Special Budget Meeting, Mr. Kolwaite seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Bedell made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2010 Regular Meeting, Mr. Kolwaite seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ITEM #3- INTRODUCTIONS – MAYOR JAY T. SCHLUM AND CHAIR SHARON DENNIS**

The Commissioners and Councilmembers introduced themselves and provide a brief background.

**ITEM #4-UPDATE ON THE PLAYFUL CITY USA PROGRAM APPLICATION – RECREATION SUPERVISOR BRYAN HUGHES**

Mr. Hughes presented an overview of the *Playful City USA* program. Attached

- Areas will be looked at to see if a service group might be of assistance; a senior playground could be included in this process.
- An Action Plan will go to the Commission and then Council once the application is completed.
- Upgrade playground equipment at Golden Eagle Park; would be a good service project.
- It is easier to receive grants if designated as a *Playful City*; the grants would help with replacing playground equipment.

**ITEM #5-REVIEW OF THE GIFT ACCEPTANCE AND DONOR RECOGNITION POLICY – COMMISSIONERS DOTY AND VARELA**

Policy attached.

- Includes guidelines for gift suggested need list; equipment, trees, or sponsorship of events.

- Donor recognition: gold, silver, and bronze. Recognition for specific donation.
- Program follows Master Plan
  - Expand to all parks
  - Variety of choices
  - Didn't want to confuse public with Greening of Downtown
  - Policy will be reviewed by the Town Attorney and then submitted to Council for approval.

#### **ITEM #6: UPDATE ON THE DOWNTOWN VISION PLAN – VICE-CHAIR BEDELL**

- Volunteers coordinated the greening project of downtown and Fountain Park; held a series of Public Forums, developed a website, developed a video with the theme: *Can you Dig It*
- Raised \$25,000; 40 trees were planted on Arbor Day
- The goal is to plant additional trees and a wildflower garden on Veteran's Day
- Ultimate goal is to raise \$250,000 and tie in with the State Centennial in February 2012, with a goal of planting up to 500 more trees.

#### **ITEM #7-UPDATE ON THE STUDENT ACTIVITY INTEREST SURVEY - OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS – YOUTH- COMMISSIONER AMY SANDERS**

Update attached.

Ms. Sanders gave the student survey to Dr. Myhr, who distributed copies to the Middle and High School Principals. Ms. Sanders received approval to distribute the survey to students. She will meet Dr. Myhr to discuss distribution, collection, and tabulation of the survey. A report on the survey results will be presented at the September Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

#### **ITEM #8 DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS – DIRECTOR MARK C. MAYER**

Presentation attached.

Supervisor Clark reported:

- Lake water complaints are down and no treatments needed yet this year.
- Additional fountain run times are 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. to help control algae; Chair Dennis suggested putting an article in the *TIMES* to clarify to residents about the additional run times.
- Looking at upgrading aeration system, which is currently cost prohibitive; the upgraded system would cause less fountain run times.
- Turf enhancement at Fountain Park; sod was put in several bare spots; this allowed the Bermuda grass to reestablish itself.
- The consistent fertilizing each month has allowed the park to remain green.

Director Mayer reported:

- Sonoran Trail Dedication – good attendance. Provides first year-round access to the Preserve and McDowell Mountain Regional Park.
- Desert Botanical Garden – number of maps used indicates tremendous amount of usage. The back of the sign could either be painted with a mural or a sign notifying “This is the Botanical Garden”.
- SOS program - Heather Ware coordinates the volunteers for this program; the art pieces are divided into four groups so each piece is cleaned every month, which makes the de-waxing and fixing any patina problems easier. The cleaning also helps the longevity of the art pieces.
- The Fountain Park Islands are listed as one of the project items in the Greening of the Downtown.

Supervisor Hughes reported:

Fountain Park Signs:

- New high pressure laminate signage at Fountain Park is graffiti proof and water proof.
- Alan Cruikshank of the *TIMES* provided a lot of information/history for the six different signs; the second paragraph of each sign has information about the fountain.
- The Downtown Business Community is paying for the signs at a cost of over \$6000.

Special Events:

- Concerts in the park were very successful.
- Natalie Varela has done all the fundraising for the Movies in the Park for four years to provide free movies to the community
- Eggstravaganza is now up to 15,000 eggs.
- 35% of Ballet under the Stars attendees are out-of-town visitors.
- Turkey Trot had over 1000 registrants with runners and walkers from all over the Valley.

#### **ITEM #9: ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Mr. Bedell made a motion to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Councilmember Leger seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Dennis, Chair

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark C. Mayer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Walter, Executive Assistant

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Session of the Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation and Town Council held on May 10, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Walter, Executive Assistant